

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
 in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein  
~~the storage area comprises a plurality of locations;~~  
~~identifying a first set of locations of the plurality of locations, wherein~~  
~~each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the~~  
~~operation; ;~~  
 comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to ~~a second set of locations~~  
at least one location description, wherein  
the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing  
a type of operation; and  
 performing the operation upon ~~a third set of locations in the storage area~~ a given  
location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage  
area only if the given location is described in the at least one location  
description.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 27 wherein  
 the at least one location description ~~second set of locations~~ is specified by an application  
 program.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 wherein  
 the operation is replication.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
 obtaining a set of entities, wherein  
 the first set of locations comprises a plurality of subsets of locations, and  
 an entity in the set of entities has permission to perform the operation on respective data  
 in at least one of the plurality of subsets of locations.

32. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 27 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of operation are ~~second set of locations is~~ designated by a requester.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 further comprising:  
obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the requester manages data in the storage area.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 32 wherein the requester performs a management function of a set of management functions for the storage area.

36. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein the requester identifies a respective physical location in the storage area corresponding to each location described in the at least one location description ~~of the second set of locations.~~

37. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein each location described in the ~~second set of locations~~ at least one location description is specified by  
a beginning location and  
a number of contiguous locations starting at the beginning location.

38. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 32 wherein ~~the second set of locations~~ the at least one location description is designated by a set of indicators, wherein  
the set of indicators comprises an indicator for each respective location of the plurality of locations, and  
each indicator of the set of indicators indicates whether the respective location for the indicator is ~~included~~ described in the ~~second set of locations~~ at least one location description.

39. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 further comprising:  
 obtaining a ~~fourth~~ second set of locations; and  
 performing a second operation on the ~~fourth~~ second set of locations after the operation is  
 performed on the given location ~~third set of locations~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 39 wherein  
 the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of  
the operation are second set of locations is designated by the requester; and  
 the operation and the second operation are designated by the requester.

41. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32 wherein  
 a sieve for the storage area comprises the at least one location description and the  
corresponding property describing the type of operation, and  
 each type of operation in the sieve is performed on the ~~third set of locations~~ given location if  
 the sieve is specified.

42. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
~~identifying means for identifying a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in~~  
~~response to a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein~~  
~~the storage area comprises the plurality of locations, and~~  
~~each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the~~  
~~operation;~~  
means for performing the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a  
first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the means  
for performing the following comprise:  
 comparing means for comparing at least one location of the first set of locations to at  
least one location description, wherein  
the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing  
a type of operation ~~a second set of locations~~; and  
 performing means for performing the operation upon ~~a third set of locations in the~~  
~~storage area~~ a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of

locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description.

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 42 wherein the ~~second set of locations is~~ at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of operation are designated by a requester.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 42 further comprising: obtaining means for obtaining a designation of the operation to be performed.

46. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:  
~~an identifying module to identify a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in response to a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein the storage area comprises the plurality of locations, and each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the operation;~~  
a module configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the module configured to perform the following comprises:  
 a comparing module configured to compare at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation ~~a second set of locations~~; and  
 a performing module configured to perform the operation upon ~~a third set of locations in the storage area~~ a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description.

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 46 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of operation are second set of locations is designated by a requester.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 46 further comprising:  
an obtaining module to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

50. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:  
~~identifying instructions to identify a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in response to a request to perform an operation on a storage area, wherein the storage area comprises the plurality of locations, and each location in the first set of locations meets a criterion to be targeted by the operation;~~  
instructions configured to perform the following in response to a request to perform an operation on a first set of locations of a plurality of locations in a storage area, wherein the instructions configured to perform the following comprise:  
comparing instructions configured to compare at least one location of the first set of locations to at least one location description, wherein  
the at least one location description has a corresponding property describing a type of operation a second set of locations; and  
performing instructions configured to perform the operation upon a given location in the first set of locations of the plurality of locations in the storage area only if the given location is described in the at least one location description a third set of locations in the storage area.

51. (Cancelled)

52. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 wherein the at least one location description and the corresponding property describing the type of the operation are second set of locations is designated by a requester.

53. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:  
obtaining instructions to obtain a designation of the operation to be performed.

54. (Previously Presented) A computer system comprising:  
a processor; and  
the computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein  
the computer-readable medium is coupled to the processor.

55.-57. (Cancelled)

58. (New) The method of claim 27 further comprising:  
comparing information about the operation with the corresponding property describing the type of operation.

59. (New) The system of claim 42 further comprising:  
comparing means for comparing information about the operation with the corresponding property describing the type of operation.

60. (New) The system of claim 46 further comprising:  
a comparing module configured to compare information about the operation with the corresponding property describing the type of operation.

61. (New) The computer-readable medium of claim 50 further comprising:  
comparing instructions configured to compare information about the operation with the corresponding property describing the type of operation.